WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

- A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising
 the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.
- 2. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

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- 3. The screening method of claim 1, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.
- 4. The screening method of claim 1, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.
 - 5. The screening method of claim 1, which comprises

cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein

comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid

25 sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a
partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and
absence of a test substance, and comparing the amounts of said
protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof
produced under the two conditions.

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6. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which

includes (a) a cell having an ability to produce said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a substance selected from the group consisting of an antibody against said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, a polynucleotide to which said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof can bind, and a transcription regulatory factor capable of interacting with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

- 7. The screening method of claim 1, which comprises comparing the activities of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance.
- 8. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which
- includes (a) said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a polynucleotide to which said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof can bind or a transcription regulatory factor capable of interacting with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

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9 The screening method of claim 7, which comprises cultivating a cell containing a gene whose expression is controlled by a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2

30 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the

expressions of said gene under the two conditions.

10. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof,
5 which includes (a) a cell containing a gene whose expression is controlled by said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, (b) said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to said gene under highly stringent conditions.

- 11. The screening method of claim 7, which comprises cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the activities of said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof under the two conditions.
- 20 12. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which includes (a) a cell having an ability to produce said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and (b) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to a gene whose expression is controlled by said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof under highly stringent conditions.
- 30 13. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using a polynucleotide comprising the base

sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.

14. A screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic
5 substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which comprises using a polynucleotide comprising the base sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.

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- 15. The screening method of claim 14, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the entire or a portion of the base sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:1.
- 15 16. The screening method of claim 14, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.
 - 17. The screening method of claim 14, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

- 18. The screening method of claim 14, which comprises cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the amounts of mRNA that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof under the two conditions.
- 30 19. A screening kit for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which includes (a) a cell having an ability to produce said

protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and
(b) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to mRNA that
encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof under highly
stringent conditions.

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- 20. A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains an antibody against said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.
 - 21. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 20, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

- 22. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 20, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.
- 23. A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains a polynucleotide having a base sequence complementary to the base sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.
 - 24. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 23, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.
- 30 25. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 23, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.
 - 26. A diagnostic reagent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino

acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains an antibody against said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof.

- ⁵ 27. The diagnostic reagent of claim 26, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.
 - 28. The diagnostic reagent of claim 26, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

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- 29. A diagnostic reagent for a disease associated with a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof, which contains a polynucleotide comprising the base sequence that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof.
 - 30. The diagnostic reagent of claim 29, wherein the disease is diabetes or a renal disease.

- 31. The diagnostic reagent of claim 29, wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.
- 32. A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for diabetes or a renal disease, which contains a TSC-22 suppressant.
 - 33. The prophylactic or therapeutic agent of claim 32, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.
- 30 34. A prophylactic or therapeutic method for diabetes or a renal disease in a mammal, which comprises administering a TSC-22 suppressant to said mammal.
 - 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the renal disease is

diabetic nephropathy.

- 36. Use of a TSC-22 suppressant for the production of a prophylactic or therapeutic agent for diabetes or a renal disease.
 - 37. The use of claim 36, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.